

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants again note that United States Patent No. 6,856,469 to Yoneyama et al. was relied upon by the Examiner in a §103 rejection on page 5 of the February 10, 2006 Office Action, but this reference is not yet of record. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner make United States Patent No. 6,856,469 to Yoneyama et al. of record by listing it on a Notice of Reference Cited (Form PTO-892).

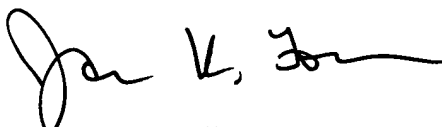
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 8-16 have been allowed, and that dependent Claims 5 and 7 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended into independent form to include all of the features of their associated independent claims and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants have added the subject matter of associated independent Claim 1 and associated intervening Claims 2-4 into Claims 5 and 7. Accordingly, Claims 5 and 7 should now be in condition for allowance. With the cancellation of Claims 1-4 and 6, without prejudice, the entire application should be in condition for allowance, and an indication of such allowance is respectfully requested.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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